



**SOUTHWESTERN  
INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES  
AT DALLAS**  
2355 N. Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, Texas 75207

TELEPHONE: 214-920-5900  
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**OFFICE OF THE  
MEDICAL EXAMINER**

October 3, 2019

MuckRock  
Attn: Stacie Satterlee  
[81107-61727051@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:81107-61727051@requests.muckrock.com)

RE: PIA Request – Bell County

Dear MuckRock/Ms. Satterlee,

We have received your request on October 2, 2019 for the following:

- (1) “A COPY of the autopsy results requested by Bell County on or about August 27, 2019”.

As written, we have no information responsive to your request. If you are seeking autopsy results on a particular person, you will need to provide the decedent’s name and date of death. Should you wish to submit a new request with all required information; please note that most autopsy and external examination reports are finalized within 90 days following the examination.

However, also be advised, any autopsy performed by this office on a deceased from a county other than Dallas is pursuant to an order issued by a Justice of the Peace as part of a judicial inquest under §§ 49.01-49.24 Tex. Code of Criminal Procedure. In performing autopsies, this Office is acting as the agent of the Justice of the Peace who orders the autopsy, and thus, any requested autopsy records are collected and maintained by the DCME on behalf of the Justice of the Peace. Because the Texas Attorney General has ruled that these autopsy records are judicial inquest records; they are not subject to the Texas Public Information Act and can only be released upon approval by the appropriate Justice of the Peace. See Gov’t Code § 552.003(1)(B).

Thank You,  
Records Department  
(214) 920-5921